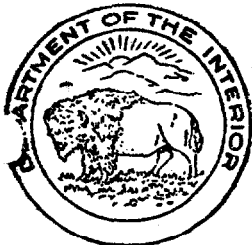


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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JANUARY 5, 1949

### WINTER WATERFOWL INVENTORY BEGINS JANUARY 11

It's inventory time for North America's migratory waterfowl.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that its 15th annual inventory of the continent's wintering ducks and geese will be made January 11 - 14. The inventory will determine the trends of increase or decrease in the waterfowl populations, and will indicate how the birds survived mortality factors during their southern migrations.

Important wintering grounds from Alaska to Guatemala, including the large West Indies islands, will be surveyed. About 1,300 trained observers, using planes, automobiles, and boats, will participate in the inventory. In addition to Fish and Wildlife Service personnel, specialists of Canadian, Mexican, and state conservation agencies and armed forces pilots will take part.

The winter inventory is made each year at the close of the last U. S. hunting season. During this period, birds from all breeding grounds and migration flyways tend to concentrate on the wintering grounds. The heavy concentrations and the stable behavior of the birds enable the Service to make its most accurate estimate of the waterfowl populations.

The Service also surveys the breeding grounds of North America's migratory waterfowl each spring and summer to determine the success or failure of breeding populations.

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